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# SCIENCE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, PUBLISHING THE  
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FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1907

STATE RESPONSIBILITY IN UNIVERSITY  
EDUCATION \*

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It is not without trepidation that a son of alma mater appears before you to-day to speak upon a subject whose complicated relations will be apparent to the most casual observer. Even the evidence of maternal interest expressed by the invitation to return to the bosom of the family for a brief visit fails to give assurance in the face of a memory calculated to inspire awe rather than loving remembrance because in the eighties the "propitious mother" restricted her family responsibilities to a periodical and very formal enquiry into the limitations of the student's knowledge. Each of us was left to acquire his sustenance at the breast of a foster mother—the college—for whom love was developed by individual memories not to be expected from the impersonal relations borne to an unnatural, but none the less real and disciplinary, parent. Our university bore us her children, but did not mother or rear us.

Familiarity with the early history of the province and university, a practical knowledge of the workings of the English and German universities and a somewhat lengthy experience in different capacities in an American state university, whilst affording a basis for comparison of view points, methods and educational results, may not, it is true, qualify one to draw deductions as to the responsibilities of the state in university education. The citizens of all

\* The second annual opening address delivered by invitation of the faculty of science of the University of Manitoba, at Winnipeg, October 25, 1907.